

26th August 1925]

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ We were explicitly told that separate action should not be taken until the Secretary of State and the Government of India come to a decision on the matter. No local Government will go forward with any scheme until the policy is settled by the Government of India.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ That is what we were told at the time when this question was discussed on the floor of this House. But in view of the long delay that has occurred, will this Government address the Secretary of State or the Government of India for liberty of action in the matter ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ We are awaiting a pronouncement from Simla.”

Marine.

Indian Chamber of Commerce at Tuticorin.

* 420 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any knowledge of the working of the Indian Chamber of Commerce at Tuticorin; and

(b) whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to introduce a Bill to amend the Tuticorin Port Trust Act so as to give the Chamber representation in the Tuticorin Port Trust Board?

A.—(a) The latest information available with Government was obtained last March.

(b) Not at present.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With reference to the answer given in clause (a), may I know whether the information obtained was favourable or otherwise ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ As the hon. Member may easily realise from the answers furnished by Mr. Graham, it is not wholly favourable.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ Have not the Government received any information till now regarding the Indian Chamber of Commerce ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ If the hon. Member is anxious to know how the Indian Chamber of Commerce has worked I will call for the information.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ I suppose a Bill will be introduced this year if the information received is favourable.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ We are awaiting the report of the working of the Indian Chamber of Commerce and when that report is received, it will be placed on the table of this House. Then it will be open to discussion.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ Last year it was said that a Bill would be introduced this year or something of that sort. So I request the hon. Member to call for the information and if possible to have a Bill introduced before the end of this year.”

[26th August 1925]

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ So far as I remember, subject to verification, what was said with regard to this question was that the Indian Chamber of Commerce had been started for some particular purpose, namely, with reference to the then impending Bill, that it had not been in existence for a long time, that it was not known whether it was transacting commercial or any other business, and that it was started merely to get the right of representation on the board. Now whether it has done anything more or whether it has transacted any business afterwards is a matter on which I will have to satisfy myself. So after looking into the whole matter if the Government are satisfied with the purpose for which the Indian Chamber was formed and if they also find that its scope has been extended, then the matter of introducing a Bill will be considered.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ So far as my information goes, it seems to me that the Chamber has addressed the Government on certain matters concerning the trade at Tuticorin and the Tuticorin Port Trust Board. If so, the Government may have some knowledge of the activities of the Chamber. In such a case a Bill may be introduced.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ That will be considered.”

Landing and shipping dues at Tuticorin.

* 421 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of landing and shipping dues for coal at Tuticorin Port is six annas per ton, while the rate for other goods is eleven annas three pies generally;

(b) if so, the reason for the same;

(c) whether the difference in rates obtains also in other ports in the Presidency?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The rate was reduced in 1924 on the recommendation of the Port Conservancy Board in view of the decrease in revenue from coal since the rate was enhanced.

(c) Yes.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With reference to the answer given in clause (b), may I know whether the desired effect has been obtained?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ So we are told.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ Is it with a view to getting more coal or getting more revenue the Government reduced the tax?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I take it that both the motives animated those responsible for the action.”

Motor Vehicles Act.

Alleged refusal of a bus service company to convey an Adi-Dravida.

* 422 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pachayappan Motor Service Company running from Tiruvannamalai to Samalpatti refused utterly to take into the